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Sri MOHAMED RAZA KHAN: May I know when the Hon. the Leader of the House replies to questions on behalf of the Hon. the Chief Minister, he himself replies to the question or after consulting the Chief Minister?

The Hon. Sri R. VENKATARAMAN: Sir, this is an internal matter in which the hon. Member is not entitled to any information.

Sri MOHAMED RAZA KHAN: It is the privilege of this House. The question is addressed to the Hon. the Chief Minister and the Hon. the Leader of the House is replying on his behalf.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When a reply is given on behalf of some other Minister he is supposed to have consulted the Hon. Minister concerned.

Sri MOHAMED RAZA KHAN: That the Hon. the Leader of the House can say, Sir, that he consulted the Hon. the Chief Minister.

State Transport Buses

* 38 *Q.*—Sri S. K. SAMBANDHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any representation has been received to run State Transport buses from Madras to Thirumazhisai; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

The Hon. Sri R. VENKATARAMAN: (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) The Madras State Transport Department is now operating one service on the route Madras to Thirupathi (via) Thirumazhisai. The Government as a policy have decided not to operate new short distance routes and hence it is not proposed to open a new route from Madras to Thirumazhisai.

Sri S. K. SAMBANDHAN: From the reply given by the Government, can it be taken that no route of shorter distance has been opened after that recommendation?

The Hon. Sri R. VENKATARAMAN: No; there are two things. The State Transport does not open any short routes. The private operators are certainly allowed to open routes wherever there is a demand.

Sri T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN: May I know the definition of a short route?

The Hon. Sri R. VENKATARAMAN: Tentatively we have decided that the State Transport will run buses on routes of over 120 miles only.

S.S.L.C. Public Examination

* 39 *Q.*—Sri T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of candidates examined for the S.S.L.C. Public Examinations held in March 1959 and in March 1960; and

(*b*) the number declared eligible for University Course in each of the above years?

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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: (*a*) 54,828 in March 1959 and 56,555 in March 1960. Of these, 53,351 in March 1959 and 54,791 in March 1960, took subjects qualifying for entrance to the University.

(*b*) 23,941 and 27,466 in March 1959 and March 1960 respectively.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN: May I know why there are so many failures and did the Board of Secondary Education go into the causes of the failures and send a report to the Government?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: No, I have not received any report, Sir.

* 40 *Q.*—SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the amount realised by way of examination fees from the candidates examined for the S.S.L.C. Public Examination held in March, 1959; and

(*b*) the amount paid by way of remuneration to paper setters, additional examiners and assistant examiners?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: (*a*) Rs. 8,34,060.

(*b*) A sum of Rs. 4,63, 435 has been paid by way of remuneration in connexion with the Examination held in March 1959.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN: Will the Government use a portion of the profit as it were to study problems connected with these large failures in the examinations?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: No particular amount is used for any particular purpose. It all comes from the general consolidated fund. As far as particular schemes are concerned, if there are any schemes of merit, they can always be looked into.

SRI S. NATARAJAN: Is there any scheme to investigate the causes of the large number of failures in the examinations?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Generally we find there is a greater number of failures because they do not secure the necessary marks in the English subject. As a matter of fact, the majority of the failures is due to that. Therefore, it requires a better teaching of English in schools at various stages and as the hon. Members are aware we are taking steps to improve the teaching methods in English.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN: Were any representations received by the Government to revise the remuneration given to the examiners and those who value the answer sheets and cannot this surplus be used for grant of scholarships and so on?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: There is no question of any particular fund being in surplus for any particular object. As I have already explained if there are any other projects which have to be implemented they will be got implemented and the money required made available from the consolidated fund. Therefore

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that question does not arise. Regarding remuneration for the examiners, at present there is no proposed to raise their remuneration.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN: Is it correct to say that the failure during this year is only in social studies rather than in other subjects ?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: In the year 1959 the failure is generally attributed to the change in the pattern of questions set for the examinations. At that time the one answer questions were changed to essay pattern questions. The students are now getting accustomed to this type of questions. In March 1960 the results were better.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN: Apart from the fact that the failures were greater in English or other subjects, I would like to know whether there is any organization to go into the who'e question and suggest methods for the improvement of the standard in schools ?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: That is always kept in mind. It is not only at the school level. It is done even at the co'lege level. There is a good deal of failures at the school as well as the college level and this is wastage of national resources and also the energy of the young pupils. Therefore this will have always to be kept in mind and better methods of teaching will have to be adopted for the purpose of improving the standards. A mere attempt at improvement of matter at the highest level alone may not yield results. Perhaps steps will have to be taken from the very beginning stages, from the elementary school stage onwards.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADHAN: Till five or six years ago were the Chief Examiners asked to send reports embodying the defects noticed by them in particular subjects and were they circulated to all concerned and if so, why such a practice has been stopped now ?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I would like to have a separate question for that. I do not have that information now with me.

SRI S. NATARAJAN: Have the Government received any recommendation from the Government of India about the setting up of a bureau of evaluation or examination research in every Board of Secondary Education and if so what action have the Government taken on that ?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I do not have the information with me now. If a separate question is put I will answer it, Sir.

Madras Act of 1958

*41 *Q.*—DR. A. SREENIVASAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state the number of animals certified for slaughter in the City of Madras from January to March 1960 under the provisions of Madras Act of 1958?